

Higher-Level Competition

Higher-Level Competition: Athletes and coaches will represent the Armed Forces at either a National Championship or CISM World Military Championship.

Team Selection: The AFSWG members or designated representatives, at the site of the Armed Forces Championship, are responsible for the selection of an Armed Forces team for higher-level competition.

Coordinating Responsibilities: Unless transferred by mutual agreement of the Services, the host service of the Armed Forces Championship is responsible for coordinating arrangements for the Armed Forces Team to higher-level competition (CISM and Nationals). This includes:

- § Messing and billeting requirements at both military and/or civilian facilities
- § Transportation
- § Training facilities and scrimmage games
- § Entry fees to higher-level activities
- § Purchase competitive uniforms (except for basketball)
- § Special requirements are the responsibility of each Service

Entry Forms and Fees: AFSCS is responsible for notifying CISM and other sports organizations of the Armed Forces intent to participate in respective higher-level competitions. The AFSCS is responsible for providing host Service and installation of the Armed Forces Championships with national championship entry form and entry instructions for sports, as applicable. Host project officer is responsible for arranging lodging (2 to a room - except trainer and team captain) and transportation. He/she is also responsible for taking a check for the appropriate entry fees.

Athlete Memberships: Athletes are responsible for paying individual membership dues where applicable for sports at nationals.

Guidelines For Higher Level Selection: The following guidelines are used in the selection process:

- § Most competent athletes, regardless of Service affiliation, will be selected.
- § Service representatives reserve the right to not select top quality candidates based on behavior, grooming standards, or availability.
- § When higher-level competition does not follow the Armed Forces Championship, services may elect to send up to three (3) additional athletes to the Armed Forces training camp.
- § Each athlete selected for an Armed Forces Team or U.S. CISM Team sign a code of conduct agreement and must strictly adhere to the conduct outlined in the form.
- § The host Service will not act without the approval of the other three services when adding players to the team.
- § Teams advancing to higher-level competitions will not exceed the number of allocations specified at the Armed Forces Championship in accordance with the SOP.

- A gold medallist athlete advances to higher level competition. If the gold medallist is not available, the silver medallist advances. If neither the gold nor silver medallist is available, the weight category will not be filled unless the AFSWG votes on an exception to policy to allow another qualified athlete to substitute. All athletes advancing to higher level competition should have competed at the Armed Forces Championship, but can be considered for higher-level if the gold or silver medallist is unavailable on a case by case basis.

Coach selection: Coach selection is as follows:

For Individual Sports: The overall team champion head coach will be the head coach for the Armed Forces Team. Overall second place champion coach will be the assistant coach. All coach selections are subject to review by the Service representatives at the championship. If either gold or silver medallist coaches are not available for higher-level competition, the AFS Working Group will vote to select the replacement coach.

For Team Sports: The winning coach of the Armed Forces Championship shall be nominated as the head coach for higher-level competition and shall have the opportunity to select an Assistant Coach. If the winning coach is not available for higher-level competition, then the second place team coach will be designated as the head coach and may select the assistant coach. All coach selections are subject to review by the Service representatives at the championship.

For higher level competition, the head coach and assistant coach agree to and sign a letter of instruction (LOI), which outlines the responsibilities and commitments of an Armed Forces coach.

Officials: The Armed Forces Sports Secretariat works with the Chief, National Governing Body to nominate an U.S. official for respective CISM championships. Officials for a CISM championship receive transportation, lodging and meals paid for by the AFSCS (or CISM host country). They also receive a flat fee of \$250.00 for their services (prorated among the services). The Armed Forces Sports Office pays the \$250.00. The team captain should meet/greet the officials when attending the championship.

Awards: Final destination of awards won at all higher-level competitions will be determined by the team captain with AFSCS guidance.

Incidental Expenses:

Travel expenses: Athletes traveling to and from a CISM or National championship are paid 75% of the Meals and Incidental rate on travel days.

An incidental rate of \$8.00 per day is used for athletes attending an Armed Forces training camp for a national or CISM competition.

Services use \$3.50 per day incidental rate for athletes attending a CISM or international event, as lodging, meals, and transportation are provided. The delegation will not move out of lodging provided by the host country, instead the U.S. Chief of Mission will work problems with host nation's organizing committee and official representative from CISM.

Armed Forces teams competing in national championships receive per diem in accordance with the current Joint Travel Regulation (JTR), which includes 75% of meals and incidental rate on travel days if not housed on a military installation. If housed on a military installation for a national championship, team members receive \$8.00 per day.

Uniforms: The Armed Forces Sports Office (through Fort Indiantown Gap, PA) issues appropriate team apparel for each individual selected to an Armed Forces team traveling to a higher level competition. The host installation project officer is responsible for purchasing the competitive uniform for an Armed Forces team going to higher-level competition. He/she will receive a fund authorization letter from Fort Indiantown Gap, PA that outlines uniform requirements and funding.

With the exception of basketball uniforms, which are provided and retained by AFSCS, the athletes keep all uniforms after competition.

Teams are **not** permitted to purchase their own uniforms.

Armed Forces Teams advancing to National Championships will use the Armed Forces Sports emblem on their competitive uniform and USA on their bags and warm-ups.

Personnel who attend or compete in two championships in the same year (CISM and Nationals or CISM and SHAPE) are issued only one set of clothing. High priced items like warm-ups and athletic bags will not be reissued again.

Dress Code For Higher Level Competition:

- § All personnel traveling to a CISM Championship must wear Khaki pants with the USA CISM Polo Shirt, unless informed of a different dress code.
- § Class A military uniforms will be worn at Opening/Closing Ceremonies and the Formal Banquet, or the uniform as dictated by the host country
- § Khaki pants (or Khaki shorts in warm weather) and the USA CISM polo shirt will be worn for Cultural Day, or any other designated function.
- § Men will not wear earrings at any time during a CISM Championship. This includes travel to and from the host country.

Code of Conduct: Athletes failing to comply with the military code of conduct agreement or who fail to make and/or retain required weight in applicable sports (boxing, wrestling, judo, and taekwondo) by the closing date of the training camp will not receive any items of issue and will be immediately returned to their home duty station.

Team Captain: For higher-level competition, a team captain (officer or civilian equivalent) is appointed. The team captain remains in the Armed Forces training camp with Armed Forces team or traveling if the training camp is not located on a U.S. military installation. If the Armed Forces training camp is held on an installation, the local sports director may assist with administrative needs until the team captain joins the team. Each team captain signs and receives a letter of instruction (LOI). He/she agrees to strictly adhere to the LOI and all duties outlined in the LOI. The team captain is responsible for the following:

- § Handling, dispersing, and accounting of monies
- § Transportation arrangements
- § Team discipline
- § All administration
- § Reporting daily results of Armed Forces Competition to the AFSCS Office
- § Ensuring no basket leave, or leave of any kind without prior coordination with respective Service Sports Office.
- Coordinate all disciplinary actions at CISM Championship with the Chief of Mission

Travel Clearance: State Department clearance is required on all overseas sports competition, regardless of the type of funding. A 60-day window is needed to obtain clearance.

After Action Report: The team captain is responsible for completing and submitting an after action report following a championship. A report should be completed within 10-15 days after the championship.

Passports: It is the services responsibility to ensure each athlete has a current passport. Lack of a passport may render an individual ineligible for higher-level competition. Athletes should come to Armed Forces competitions with their passport or proper documents for filing for a passport, if time permits.

Contingency check: A \$500 check is issued by the AFSCS to each team captain for emergency situations. Such emergencies might include; bottled water, transportation to or from the competition (if stranded at the airport), replacement of lost airline tickets. This check is not authorized for team dinners/drinks, buying personal athletic equipment, or paying for sight seeing tours. The check should be converted to traveler's checks prior to leaving the U.S.

Mementos: Mementos are an important part of any CISM competition. They provided an ice breaker to build "Friendship Through Sports". Appropriate mementos will be sent to the team captain for CISM with an instruction letter for disbursement.

Anti-Doping: Each team captain and trainer should be familiar with the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code. If you are unfamiliar with the code, please contact the Armed Forces Sports Office at (703) 681-7287. A current list of banned substances can be found at: http://www.usantidoping.org/prohibited_sub/index.htm